

Civil Engineer Among Air Force's "12 Outstanding Airmen"

First-rate and second to none!

These are the words that introduced the award-winning package of SSgt James J. Delo — one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Sergeant Delo accepted the news of winning this prestigious award with humility, and credited his drive for excellence to the strong air of pride within his squadron.

"When you have people that you work for who give 110 percent, you'll want to give 110 percent," Sergeant Delo said. "That's what keeps me going."

Sergeant Delo is a member of the Det. 1, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron cadre at Tyndall Air Force Base, FL. A carpenter by trade, Sergeant Delo trains 400 students annually in the areas of rapid runway repair and construction of the new base sheltering systems.

So what made this airman outstanding? The 23-year-old Pittsburgh native says the uniqueness of his job opened doors of opportunity for him to excel. While instructing his students, Sergeant Delo found

ways to improve their training equipment and facilities. He initiated efforts to correct design inefficiencies with the new Alaskan Small Shelter System (used for billeting), saving the Air Force \$4,000 in contract costs. He also served as the technical advisor to Applied Research Associates in developing an interactive training CD.

A skillful asset manager, Sergeant Delo saved the Air Force \$2,700 in replacement parts while repairing four pneumatic hammer drills. In addition, he discovered that replacing the diesel engines in the airfield recovery paint striper with gasoline engines would significantly cut maintenance time.

Sergeant Delo led a crew of 22 in the reconstitution of 14 TEMPER tents that are now 100 percent ready to deploy. He was also a key player in the success of last year's Readiness Challenge competition. For these and many more achievements, Sergeant Delo was awarded one of only five



SSgt James Delo (2nd from right), one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, instructs students on how to build a California Medium Shelter System at the Det. 1, 823rd RHS Silver Flag Exercise Site. (Photo by 2nd Lt Serena Custis)

Air Force Civil Engineer medallions presented to members of the Silver Flag Exercise Site cadre by Maj Gen Earnest O. Robbins II for "excellence above and beyond." (From an article in the Gulf Defender by 2nd Lt Serena Custis, 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Fire Prevention Week 2001

A1C Scott Rutkauskas, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, shows first grade students from the elementary school at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, the types of equipment and tools used to combat a fire. Sparky the fire dog and other firefighters talked to the students about fire safety and emergency procedures, such as "stop, drop, and roll," during Fire Prevention Week Oct. 7-13. This year's theme, "Cover the Bases & Strike Out Fire," communicated safety messages through the language of baseball, combining America's favorite pastime with important fire safety tips to teach children and their families how they can "cover the bases" to "strike out" preventable home fires. (Photo by SrA Karen Z. Silcott)

2001 Air Force Design Awards

The Air Force has announced the winners of its 2001 Design Awards Program. Twenty-five awards were given this year to recognize projects that have achieved the Air Force goal of design excellence as it relates to the natural and built environment.

Three levels of awards are given: the Honor Award, Merit Award and Citation Award, the Honor Award being the highest of the three. There are no quotas as to the number of awards given, and there is no ranking of winners within any of the award levels. These awards mark the 26th year of the program, which is administered by the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence at Brooks Air Force Base, TX.

Honor Award – Interior Design

Base Chapel

Aviano AB, Italy

Base Engineer: 31st CES

Airman Dining Hall

Whiteman AFB, MO

Design Organization: 509th CES

Honor Award – Facility Design

Ambulatory Health Care Center

Maxwell AFB, AL

Base Engineer: 42nd CES

Visitor Center

Vandenberg AFB, CA

Base Engineer: 30th CES

Merit Award – Planning Studies and Design Guide

General Plan

Kadena AB, Japan

Base Engineer: 18th CEG

Merit Award – Concept Design

Headquarters Facilities for NORAD, U.S. Space Command and Army Space Command

Peterson AFB, CO

Base Engineer: 21st CES

Dining Facility

Portland International Airport

Oregon Air National Guard

Base Engineer: 142nd CES

Consolidated Lodging Facility

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport

Air Reserve Station, MN

Base Engineer: 934th CES

Merit Award – Interior Design

Air Force Reserve General Training Facility

Travis AFB, CA

Base Engineer: 60th CES

Merit Award – Facility Design

Main Fire/Crash Rescue Station

Ellsworth AFB, SD

Base Engineer: 28th CES

Fire Rescue Station

Kulis Air National Guard Base, AK

Base Engineer: 176th CES

Dormitory Complex

Edwards AFB, CA

Base Engineer: 95th CEG

Consolidated Base Support Complex

Ellsworth AFB, SD

Base Engineer: 28th CES

Merit Award – Family Housing

San Quirino Housing Units

Aviano AB, Italy

Base Engineer: 31st CES



The Base Chapel, Aviano Air Base, Italy. (Photos courtesy AFCEE)

Citation Award – Planning Studies and Design Guide

General Plan

RAF Croughton, United Kingdom
Base Engineer: 422nd CES

Dormitory “Super Block” Master Plan

Vandenberg AFB, CA
Base Engineer: 30th CES

Master Plan

U.S. Air Force Academy, CO
Base Engineer: 10th CEG

Citation Award – Concept Design

Enlisted Club

Hickam AFB, HI
Base Engineer: 15th CES

Medical Treatment Facility

Aviano AB, Italy
Base Engineer: 31st CES

Air Traffic Control Tower

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
Base Engineer: 88th ABW/CE

Base Operations Renovation

Grand Forks AFB, ND
Base Engineer: 319th CES



The Airman Dining Hall, Whiteman AFB, MO.

Sonoran Vista Housing Neighborhood Landscaping

Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
Design Organization: 355th CES/AFCEE

Memorial Pavilion

U.S. Air Force Academy, CO
Base Engineer: 10th CEG

Citation Award – Interior Design

World War II Chapel Renovation

Vandenberg AFB, CA
Base Engineer: 30th CES

Citation Award – Family Housing

Family Housing Addition

Pacific Heights Family Housing Annex, CA
Base Engineer: 61st ABG/CE



The Visitor Center, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

The Ambulatory Health Care Center, Maxwell AFB, AL.

Rising to the Challenge

Air Force firefighters beat the clock to qualify for worldwide competition

by John Van Winkle
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

It took A1C Josh Sarters two minutes and one separated shoulder to go from local firefighter to national competitor, with two seconds to spare.

Sarters, a 21-year-old firefighter with the U.S. Air Force Academy Fire Department, qualified for worldwide competition during the Rocky Mountain Firefighter Combat Challenge regional competition in Cheyenne, WY, in August.

Sarters' time of 1:58 also helped

qualify the Academy team for that same worldwide competition, the World Firefighter Combat Challenge.

The Firefighter Combat Challenge is hailed by ESPN as the toughest two minutes in sports. The cable sports network broadcasts the annual competition, which is designed to simulate the real-life demands of firefighting with five fire-scene tasks. The timed event consists of a five-story tower climb, a five-story hose hoist, forcible entry, hose advance and victim rescue.

And while the regional challenge drew teams from Colorado, Idaho,

of Sarters, Dan McAuliffe and Airmen 1st Class Kory Cofers, Mark Goenen and Michael Gagnier qualified for the worldwide competition with a time of 6:24:29.

For individuals, the magic time is two minutes. Completing the Combat Challenge course in less than two minutes qualifies an individual firefighter, such as Sarters, for the national competition, and usually leaves them feeling it for days afterward.

Sarters was no exception to paying the physical toll, suffering a slightly separated shoulder yet still

The Firefighter Combat Challenge attracts hundreds of U.S. and Canadian municipal fire departments each year at more than 25 locations and is seen by more than 30 million people worldwide, according to the competition's web site. The competition seeks to encourage firefighter fitness and demonstrate the profession's rigors to the public.



The SAM Squad (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines) from the Louis F. Garland DoD Fire Academy qualified in the relay team event. Team members (from left to right) are Sgt Joe Foucha, U.S. Marine Corps; SrA Chad Chavers, U.S. Air Force; and SSgt Omar Moore, U.S. Army. (Photo courtesy DoD Fire Academy)



Team Travis members A1C Brian Driscoll and Mike Romano and SSgt Mike Melton take a moment to prepare themselves before an upcoming team relay event during regional Firefighter Combat Challenge competition. (Photo by SSgt A.J. Bosker)

South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana, the firefighters weren't so much competing against each other as they were competing against the clock. Earning the coveted first, second or third place finish won't get you into the worldwide competition. It's time that's the real opponent.

The magic time is seven minutes for the five-person teams. The team's three best times are used to calculate their overall time. The Academy team

completing the event. For the 6' 4", 215-pound airman, the Combat Challenge started normally enough — racing up five flights of stairs while carrying a 44-pound fire hose and wearing 60-plus pounds of protective and breathing gear.

Dropping the hose in a box at the top of the stairs, Sarters moved on to the hoist pull at the tower's top railing, hoisting a 45-pound rolled-up firehose straight up the five-story

distance. The firehose is attached to a rope for this event, which taps solely into the firefighter's upper body strength as they pull the rope up hand over hand.

"On one of the pulls, my right shoulder popped out of socket, and then I switched arms," said Sarters. "And when I was pulling with just my left, I popped my right [shoulder] back in place, and I kept moving."

But the damage was done. "When I got the hose roll up to the top, I couldn't lift it over with my right arm," he recalled. So the right-handed firefighter had to use his left arm and burn precious seconds just to get the firehose over the railing.

Bounding down each of the 63 stairs, Sarters headed to the forcible entry event. Rather than busting down a door, this event challenges firefighters to use a 9-pound mallet to move a 160-pound I-beam forward 5 feet. "By that time, the adrenaline kicked in, so I didn't notice the pain much," he said.

Following the forcible entry, Sarters had to run 140 feet through a mini-obstacle course. "Then I got to the hose pull and it was with the same shoulder."

Working through the pain, Sarters pulled the firehose the required 75 feet then nailed the basketball-sized target with a stream of water. That left only one event — the Combat Challenge's final and most grueling episode — the simulated rescue.

Firefighters have to grapple a life-sized, 175-pound mannequin under the armpits and drag it backwards 100 feet to complete the event. "By the time you get to that point, your legs just don't want to move," said Sarters. "Then it's all muscle endurance — leg endurance."

But his injured shoulder started to lose strength, which loosened his grip on the mannequin. "It was getting weak, and I had 10 feet left when I looked back," Sarters said. With his arm strength starting to finally give way, he literally fell back across the finish line and completed the Challenge with two seconds to spare.

Sarters is only the second firefighter in the event's 10-year history to qualify for nationals during his first competition. He gives part of the credit to his teammate and rival, Cofers. "If it wasn't for Kory, I wouldn't push as hard as I do," Sarters said. "Ever since we started, ever since we got to know each other, Kory and I have always been competing, especially with the Firefighter Challenge. I had the fastest time out of the blocks when we started this, and then he'd better my time, and I'd better his."

But the end of the regional competition was by no means an end to the rigorous training needed to maintain their competitive edge. Once Sarters' shoulder was fully healed, he joined Cofers and the rest of the Academy team at hitting the weights program and the high-carbohydrate, high-protein diet designed by the USAFA Athletic Department's Human Performance Lab in preparation for the World Firefighter Combat Challenge Oct. 30 to Nov. 3 in Memphis, TN.

Firefighters from Travis Air Force Base, CA; Little Rock AFB, AR; Ramstein AB, Germany; and RAF Mildenhall, U.K. qualified for the World Firefighter Combat Challenge team event as well. Four Travis firefighters, A1Cs Harry Myers and Mike Romano and SSgts Armando Eversley and Mike Melton, and one Mildenhall firefighter, SrA Brian Knoke, qualified for the individual competition. In addition, teams from Travis; Little Rock; Edwards AFB, CA; Nellis AFB, NV; Tinker AFB, OK; and the Louis E. Garland Department of Defense Fire Academy, Goodfellow AFB, TX, qualified for the relay team event.

Editor's note: Nellis, Mildenhall, Tinker and USAFA firefighters were unable to attend the World Firefighter Combat Challenge due to world events. The results of the competition will be provided in our next issue.



A1C Josh Sarters, 510th CES, edges the last few feet to the finish line while dragging a 175-pound mannequin during the final event of the Firefighter Combat Challenge. Sarters finished the regional event with a time of 1 minute, 58 seconds, qualifying for this year's World Firefighter Combat Challenge. (Photo by John Van Winkle)



Firefighter Dan McAuliffe, 510th CES, begins his five-story ascent while carrying a 44-pound fire hose to begin the Firefighter Combat Challenge. McAuliffe is the lone civilian on the U.S. Air Force Academy team. (Photo by John Van Winkle)

Air Force Firefighters Win DoD Awards

The Air Force claimed three firefighting awards at the annual Department of Defense Fire-Rescue International Training Conference Aug. 23-30 in New Orleans, LA.

SSgt Kile W. Stewart, 18th Civil Engineer Group, Kadena Air Base, Japan, was honored as the DoD Military Firefighter of the Year; Joseph R. Suddarth, 96th CEG, Eglin AFB, FL, was named DoD Civilian Firefighter of the Year; and the 35th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Protection Flight, Misawa AB, Japan, received the DoD

Outstanding Fire Department of the Year Award. All became nominees for the DoD competition after winning at the Air Force level.

Stewart's professionalism has been recognized throughout Pacific Air Forces Command (PACAF). He was named the 18th Wing's Non-commissioned Officer of the Year, was PACAF's Lance P. Sijan Air Force Leadership Award winner, and was the command's nominee for the Maj Gen Eugene A. Lupia Civil Engineer Military Technician of the Year Award.

"To be named Firefighter of the Year for DoD is an overwhelming honor," said Stewart, a third-generation firefighter. "Without the people I work with, this would never have been possible."

Mr. Suddarth was the 96th Air Base Wing and Air Armament Center Civilian of the Year and was named an Outstanding Performer during the wing's Operational Readiness Inspection. He was also named Firefighter of the Year by the Fort Walton Beach Rotary Club. Last year he helped save the lives of two people in separate incidents. In one, he gave artificial respiration to a six-month-old child who had stopped breathing, and in the other, assisted a woman complaining of severe chest pain.

Fiscal year 2001 was a busy one for the members of the 35th CES Fire Protection Flight. Flight members had the unusual opportunity to rescue a lost skier on a mountain, untangle a KC-135 that skidded off the runway and became entangled in barrier netting, and rescue a badly injured construction worker trapped in an underground fuel storage tank. In addition, the unit had more than 3,420 man-days deployed in support of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force, PACAF exercises, and the international G-8 Summit.

Other Air Force winners include SSgt Christopher M. McCollum, an instructor at the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy, Goodfellow AFB, TX, who received the DoD Fire Academy Instructor of the Year award. Mark A. Smith and Neil A. Davies, RAF Lakenheath, England, won the Air Force Heroism Award; Ernst R. Piercy, U.S. Air Force Academy, CO, won the Civilian Fire Officer of the Year Award; and SMSgt Timothy J. Seigal Sr., Edwards AFB, CA, won the Military Fire Officer of the Year Award.

Air Force winners competed against firefighters from the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Defense Logistics Agency for the DoD awards. (*TSgt Michael A. Ward, HQ AFCEA Public Affairs*)



Joseph R. Suddarth (left), 96th CEG, was named DoD Civilian Firefighter of the Year.



MSgt Scott Hall and CMSgt (ret) Mark Giuliano accepted the DoD Outstanding Fire Department of the Year Award on behalf of the 35th CES Fire Protection Flight.



SSgt Kile W. Stewart (center), 18th CEG, was named DoD Military Firefighter of the Year. (Photos by Donald Warner)

Air Force Energy, Water Managers Earn DOE Awards

Saving energy and money while helping the environment earned the Air Force four Federal Energy and Water Management Awards this year. The awards, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program, are given annually to recognize outstanding contributions toward increased energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation within the federal sector.



Clockwise from top: Charles Guess, Kelly Jordan, Jim Bertrand, Lt Tammy Gray and Ron Trepanier

Energy Efficiency/Energy Management

An Energy Efficiency/Energy Management Award in the small group category went to the 17th Training Wing's Base Energy Team, Goodfellow Air Force Base, TX. Team members Ron Trepanier, Jim Bertrand, Charles Guess, Kelly Jordan and Lt Tammy Gray made Goodfellow AFB a leader in meeting National Energy Policy conservation and cost savings goals.



Garland Scott

Ron Trepanier has managed energy savings projects implementing \$3 million in Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs), saving 25,837 MMBTU and \$246,000 per year, and reducing energy use by 9.5 percent.

Jim Bertrand accomplished nine major heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) projects, a large portion of them installed in-house, saving the government more than \$60,000 on contract costs and yielding additional savings of more than 7,572 MMBTUs and \$85,000 annually.

Charles Guess and Kelly Jordan programmed and defined modifications to the Energy Management Control System (EMCS) to incorporate more efficient control and on/off schedules for implementing peak energy shavings, cutting an estimated 400 kW per month and saving more than \$19,000.

Lt Tammy Gray programmed and monitored the Energy Awareness Program, creating contests and awards, mock billing, newspaper articles, and a housing energy program that has saved an estimated 84 megawatt-hours and more than \$5,800 annually.

Effective Program Implementation and Management

Garland Scott, P.E., C.E.M., command energy manager for Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, TX, and Thomas W. Waller, C.E.M., base energy manager/utility engineer, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, Columbus AFB, MS, both received Effective Program Implementation and Management Awards.

Garland Scott developed and implemented an AETC incentive award program in which 13 U.S. Air Force installations compete for \$100,000 each year for their energy awareness and conservation programs. He was also responsible for

securing alternative financing and successful implementation of more than \$200 million in projects, getting 15 task orders awarded through ESPCs and 10 task orders awarded through Utility Energy Savings Contracts.

Among Thomas Waller's accomplishments, his efforts at Columbus AFB resulted in an 11 percent increase in energy efficiency, including improvements to the base infrastructure, reductions in maintenance requirements, and increased operational abilities, saving \$29,200 compared to the previous year. Energy evaluations and conservation under his guidance are estimated to account for annual energy savings of 205 MMBTUs.

Exceptional Service

William G. King, Jr., C.E.M., base energy manager and mechanical engineer for the 354th CES at Eielson AFB, AK, received one of three Exceptional Service Awards.

His efforts at Eielson AFB over the past year have resulted in several energy and water management improvements, including: an ESPC estimated to save approximately 24,300 MMBTU per year, equating to \$332,101 annually; the conversion of 1,505 tons of solid waste into a usable fuel source for Eielson; and the planning, design and construction of several distribution projects that may save the base more than \$3 million in energy costs annually.

For more information on the awards program, call Quinn Hart, Air Force Facility Energy Program Manager, HQ Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency, DSN 523-6361 or commercial (850) 283-6361. (Bill Autin, HQ AFCEA Energy Awareness)



Thomas W. Waller



William G. King, Jr.

Bird Conservation Efforts at Holloman Rewarded

Holloman Air Force Base, NM, captured a national-level award for its bird conservation efforts.

The Lake Holloman Wildlife Refuge Area won a 2000 Partners in Flight Award for exceptional contributions in the field of migratory bird conservation. The award came in the stewardship category, which recognizes organizations that have excelled in the protection and restoration of bird habitats.

"I was unbelievably excited and extremely proud of Holloman Air Force Base," said Dr. Hildy Reiser, chief of the natural resources element in the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron's Environmental Flight. She said the significance of the award reaches well beyond U.S. borders, with individuals from Canada, Mexico, Central America and the United States making up the award committee.

According to Brad Jacobs, chair

of Partners in Flight's National Awards Committee and a wildlife ecologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, several criteria made the Lake Holloman Wildlife Refuge Area stand out.

In 2000, the environmental flight increased the wetlands area by 125 acres, creating more aquatic vegetation for nesting shorebirds. The move increased the nesting area for the western snowy plover and American avocet, both "priority" species for Partners in Flight, as well as habitats for the snowy egret, green heron and black-necked stilt.

The environmental flight has enlisted the support of surrounding communities by generating interest in the wetlands. Eagle Scouts, New Mexico State University students and others have carried out projects and conducted studies in the wetlands.

The environmental flight's efforts

spawned interest in a cooperative public education project with the White Sands National Monument and the World Wildlife Fund.

Partners in Flight is a cooperative effort among federal, state and local government agencies, philanthropic foundations, professional organizations, conservation groups, industry, the academic community, and private individuals. Participants include 16 federal agencies, 40 private organizations, more than 60 state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies, numerous universities, and the forest industry. Holloman's stewardship award was the only national award given in New Mexico by Partners in Flight this year. (*SrA Aaron Cram, 49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*)

2001 Major-Selects

The following Air Force civil engineer officers have been selected for promotion to major. Congratulations to all on their dedication and achievement.

James R. Albrecht
John J. Allen
James R. Beam Jr.
Aaron K. Benson
Ann M. Birchard
Joel J. Burnias
Paul Cotellesso
Thomas J. Davison
Anthony J. Davit
David E. Diazroman
Daniel J. Gerdes
Dean H. Hartman
Jeffrey L. Heiderscheidt
James C. Hodges
David M. Hunter
Hector E. Jamili
Andrew C. Johns
James H. King Jr.

David J. Lawrence
David W. Lawrence
Gary E. Lund
Brian G. May
Shawn D. Moore
John F. Muratore
Michael L. Myers
Christopher A. Pleiman
Michael T. Roth
Charles O. Slaby III
Mark A. Sloan
Gordon R. Taylor
Christopher J. West
Ida Lee Widmann
Garrick T. Williams
Thomas N. Williams
Aaron A. C. Young

